

THE

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XLI.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1849.

No. 8.

THE LATE DR. JOSEPH STONE.

[ALLUSION was made, in last week's Journal, to the death of Dr. Stone, of Hardwick. It was then expected that a biographical sketch of him would be prepared for the Journal by a physician of the same county, and it is still hoped that such an one will be furnished. As it is desirable, however, that some early account of his life and character should be given in our pages, the following sketch is taken from the Christian Register, of this city. It was prepared, under date of August 15th, by the Rev. N. Damon, now of North Chelsea, in the vicinity of Boston, an intimate personal friend of the deceased.]

Dr. Stone was a subscriber to this Journal from its commencement to the time of his death, as he was also to the New England Medical Journal from its beginning. We have more than once heard him mention that in the year 1812, while attending medical lectures in this city, Dr. Warren stated to the class that the first number of that Journal was about to be published, and advised the members to subscribe. Dr. Stone did so, and continued his subscription to the work till it was united to the Weekly Medical Intelligencer, in 1828, the two works together then making the first volume of the present Boston Medical and Surgical Journal—which, as already mentioned, he received till his death, *and most punctually paid for.*

It should be mentioned, in addition to what is said of the public life of Dr. S. in the following sketch, that he was Vice-President of the Massachusetts Medical Society at the time of his death, having been twice elected to that office.]

I have recently returned from a brief visit to my friends in Hardwick, Worcester County. The bold and almost mountainous scenery of that picturesque and fertile region, the towering chesnut forests, with their glorious flowering foliage, never appeared more beautiful and fresh, than while bathing—sleeping as it were—in the liquid light of last July.

But a cloud has come over those pleasant scenes, in the death of Dr. Stone. I here only intend a passing tribute to a true man, and leave to some abler pen the complete analysis of his character.

Dr. Stone was born in Shrewsbury, Nov. 12th, 1789, and studied medicine with Dr. Joseph Flint, of that town. He removed to Hardwick in 1814, where he remained in active practice until his death, a

period of about 35 years. He died of typhus fever, after a brief illness, on the 27th of June, 1849, in the 60th year of his age.

Dr. Stone was distinguished for an ardent love of his profession, which, united with his inclination for untiring research and critical accuracy, led to thorough and extensive acquirements both in its theory and practice; indeed, he was, perhaps, the victim of professional enthusiasm; for after his fever was seated upon him, probably in unconsciousness of its severity, he attended a meeting of a medical society in Worcester, in which he felt deeply interested, and returned much worse, to live but a few days.

In evidence of his professional estimation among medical men, it need only be stated that he was frequently sought in consultation, and to lecture before medical societies—that he has been President of the "District Medical Society for the County of Worcester"—was for several years a Counsellor of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and was elected by that Society as a delegate to the American Medical Association, which assembled in Boston last May.

But after all, to know Dr. Stone as a physician, as also as a man, one should have witnessed his careful examinations and tender deportment in the sick room, where the deep shade of sympathetic sadness issuing from his spirit through the eye, and covering his face as with a mantle, told that the case was critical, or else the encouraging smile of a cheerful benevolence bade the convalescent speed his recovery.

A touching instance of his integrity, both as a man and as a physician, occurred only two or three days previous to his death. The day after his return from Worcester, when his malady rendered it entirely improper that he should go out, he ordered his carriage to the door for the purpose of visiting a sick woman. To the entreaties of his family he replied—"I told her that I would visit her to-day, and she may die before I shall have another opportunity." He seemed to look upon his promise as upon a thing that could not under any circumstances be broken. The *tears of his wife*, however, at length turned the balance; he seemed to realize that there must be something peculiar in his condition. In a tone of deep dejection he sent the carriage away, and never alluded to the subject again.

In evidence of Dr. Stone's political estimation, it should be stated that in 1820 he was a member of the Convention that revised the Statutes of Massachusetts; he has represented Hardwick in the Legislature, and for several terms filled a chair in the Massachusetts Senate.

In evidence of his literary estimation, it may be said that he occasionally lectured before lyceums and literary societies, always with acceptance, and that his speeches on public occasions—usually extorted from a spirit of reluctant, nay, almost morbid humility and modesty—were uniformly interesting and successful.

His pre-eminent social qualifications rendered his society always welcome.

That Dr. Stone excelled in agriculture, his beautiful farm gives testimony. He had also a passion for flowers and the polite arts, loved music and poetry, was never tired with gazing at good pictures, especially

at an excellent painting of the "Saviour reasoning with the Doctors," which he had been at some pains to obtain."

In evidence of his high character for integrity, benevolence and general capacity, it may be stated that he held a justice's commission, under which he did much business for the better portion of his adult life; that the widow and the fatherless invariably came to him in the utmost confidence, with their perplexing affairs, which he unravelled and arranged with the same anxious, unwearying interest and industry, as if they had been his own, usually refusing all compensation except that which he could not avoid—the thanks of grateful hearts. His professional charges, too, were unparalleled for their moderation. Yet such was the simplicity of his life, that though not rich, he by no means left his family destitute.

As a husband and father, probably no one was ever more beloved, or with better reason, than Dr. Stone. The spirit that carried light, hope, healing, peace to the dark chambers of sickness and death, that carried sunshine everywhere, made a paradise of home.

In religious sentiments, Dr. Stone was a Unitarian. He did all in his power—and that was not a little—to promote the principles and sustain the institutions of liberal christianity in Hardwick. He ever manifested a profound reverence for God, and a spirit of love and admiration for his Son; indeed, he loved everybody. He evidently *enjoyed* his religion with a deep and holy joy. He made the Saviour his model. The spirit of Christ's religion pervaded the whole conduct of his life.

It grieved him to the heart to witness the follies of mankind, especially every form of dissipation in the young. As a medical man and a christian, he knew the end of these things. Whenever he noticed unfavorable irregularities in a youth, it made him feel so sad to think that in a few years he might be greatly injured, perhaps ruined by them, that he could not help reverting to the subject again and again in conversation with his friends, thus unconsciously betraying the depth, disinterestedness and compassion of his benevolence, and showing how utterly impossible it was for him to pass through the world and not lighten its griefs—first by preventing sin when practicable, and then by sharing with every sufferer the burden of his woes.

In Dr. Stone, the gentleman, the philanthropist, and the christian, were identical. His frame was vigorous and his life was one continuous scene of varied activity. His presence everywhere did good, like a medicine, making the sick well, the well better. He had no discoverable vanity, egotism, or selfishness. Others looked upon him as upon a man of ten thousand—nor did they over-estimate him in the least; but he seemed to look upon himself and his own interests as upon things of secondary importance, to be attended to—if at all—when everybody else had been provided for and made happy. He literally spent his life in going about doing good; his whole earthly existence was a free-will offering upon the shrine of benevolence and humanity.

No man, apparently, could be so ill spared from his position here, as Dr. Stone. But evidently he was long since ripe for heaven. Earth has had her share of him, a purer world has claims, and now must have

its portion of the blessedness and benefit of his society and spiritual activity. The time has come for him to be promoted, and why should we repine? Let us rather be thankful that really good men, Israelites indeed, are occasionally permitted to bless the earth with their presence and their lives for a season. Let it encourage us to be faithful here unto the end.

If we would pay a worthy tribute to the memory of the righteous departed, if we would secure their best approbation, and add, if it can be, one new thrill of delight to their bliss in heaven—let us emulate, surpass, if possible, their example.

ON THE MORBID CONDITION OF THE GENERATIVE ORGANS.

[FROM a paper on the subject of "the physical and mental phenomena which depend on certain morbid conditions of the generative organs," with cases, read by Wm. D. Purple M.D., of Geneva, N.Y., before the Chenango County Medical Society, and published in the New York Journal of Medicine, the following concluding remarks are copied.]

From a review of the foregoing observations and cases, the following facts are clearly proven to my mind, and I doubt not they will meet with an affirmative response by every member present.

1st. That a gleet, following gonorrhœal symptoms, is not the mild and harmless thing it has generally been supposed to be; but is capable, under certain circumstances, in some constitutions, of making up an irritation, liable to be transferred to other portions of the membranous surface, and of producing all the symptoms incident to the disease of that wide-spread structure, including meningeal irritation, coma and death.

2d. That violent and unnatural orgasms of the sexual apparatus in the early age of puberty, before the organs are fully developed, and have attained their perfect vigor, will, in either sex, create an almost uncontrollable desire for its repetition, which, in the end, will leave the nervous system in a similar condition to that of the confirmed inebriate; and, if long continued, will produce every variety of neuralgic symptoms, including epilepsy, mania, and perhaps death.

3d. That, in consequence of long-continued excitement, there is a change of structure and functional action of the glandular portion of the testicles, the vasa deferentia and eferentia, the vesiculæ seminales, the prostate gland and its numerous follicles, the urethra, and, by sympathy, the bladder, the ureters and kidneys, that cause them to pour out seminal and blenorrhœal discharges; thereby debilitating the system, undermining the constitution, producing dyspeptic symptoms, and, if not timely arrested, terminating in coma and death.

If the foregoing points are not satisfactorily sustained by the cases presented above, I have no doubt that the experience of many members of this Society will be able to supply many cases to demonstrate their truth. To this end a rigid investigation is solicited, that their truth or falsity may be made apparent to our practical advantage.

How limited is our knowledge of the pathological character of these troubles! How little is the country physician prepared to form a rational theory of their influence in the animal economy! How little we know of their existence, and how frequently they elude our research! The veil of secrecy and shame-faced denial hides them from our view. They are produced by personal gratification and perverted action of the strongest passion of the animal system; a passion that over-rides all other physical powers, and is the basis of all earthly affections and sympathies of the heart. It partakes of all the characteristics of forbidden fruit, and is heightened by the imaginings of a perverted imagination. It is the seat of the "*one idea*" that dethrones reason, and fills our lunatic asylums with their inmates. It is, also, the source from "whence the darker passions flow," as the prison and the gallows can assert! The grave of the suicide can bear witness to the same truth. The poet and the novelist have made this giant their theme, and portrayed his power for the weal or the woe of mankind; but the medical philosopher has neglected to cultivate his acquaintance. He has been suffered to secrete himself among the mental afflictions, and has seldom been dragged forth to answer for the deeds done in the body! It is time that these organs, so far as re-production is concerned, should be thoroughly studied, and their pathological influences clearly developed; but the passions and appetites which lie behind them are almost entirely hid from our view. Their use or abuse have seldom been referred to as the origin of diseased action. The world sneers at and ridicules the suspicion that health is affected by their indulgence, and the physician is apt to join in the cry, and refuse to give the matter serious consideration. We hardly know

"that lovers' hectic flush,
Will sap, at length, the very springs of life;"

and we have been slow to believe that disease of these organs may produce every variety of chronic disease, ultimately be transferred to the brain, and cause mania or death. But observation and reflection have convinced us that it will do all these things, nor is admitted analogy wanted to confirm this belief. We know that there is no organ of the body that is not capable, by perverted action, to work its own destruction; that the seeds of disease and death are lurking in every healthy organ, and only require a certain amount of excitability to arm them with suicidal power. We know that perverted taste and morbid appetite produce a chronic disease of the stomach, and through the nervous system invade the citadel of mind, and by the most horrid disease consign the bacchanalian to his grave. This is emphatically true in relation to the organs we are now considering. We know that in certain constitutions the process of re-production in the female will produce an anæmic state that ultimately produces death. We see the far-reaching influence of hysteria, and its herculean effects upon the whole physical and mental characteristics, especially after long continuance. Analogous to this are the effects of puerperal mania, which all admit to originate in undue excitement of a portion of these organs. These diseases

both produce a sympathetic irritation of the brain, and their effects are liable to exist through life, even though the causes that produced them have entirely ceased. We see habitual costiveness producing severe pain in the head; and irritation of the large intestines causing effusions upon the brain. And we may expect that long-continued disease of the reproductive organs will produce similar effects.

We often see death supervene on a train of nervous symptoms, the result of long-continued irritation of some excitable organ. We also see subjects where there is, to all appearance, *no* local disease, whose symptoms are entirely prostrated for the want of nervous energy. In these cases we are apt to say, "they are nervous;" and there is a degree of uncharitableness attached to the expression that conveys the idea, that "there is little or nothing the matter," until death suddenly starts us from our fancied security, and we find that neuralgia, without any apparent cause, has worn out the powers of the system, and unexpectedly broken the brittle thread of life. These cases require more serious consideration at our hands; and there are reasons to fear that in many instances their origin will be found in the great nervous centre we have been considering.

The truth is, we are very much in the dark in relation to many diseases of this system. Their origin lies so near the *source of life*, that it is difficult for mere mortals to penetrate the veil behind which they are shrouded. How often we see in the aged gentleman, a train of fatal symptoms present themselves, from some morbid condition of the prostate gland, and other generative and urinary organs in its immediate vicinity? Should they be traced to their cause, it would doubtless be found in the long-continued use or abuse of the generative organs. Look, also, at the bed-ridden subject, who, for years, has suffered under the various forms of prolapsus uteri. How little we know of her pathological condition. We know there is local weakness; we know there is relative displacement; we know there is excessive nervous sympathy and general debility; we know she cannot sustain an upright position. But what else do we know? Has post-mortem examination been had in the country to elucidate this dark point in pathology? Has it or can it demonstrate the fact whether it depends on the muscular, the fascial, or the membranous structure? Has it clearly shown that its seat is in the vascular, cellular, or nervous tissues? These things have not been done. All we know is, that they involve the "*generative organs*," and that every excitement of their function increases local debility and general nervous exhaustion.

The ovaria are important organs of the female system. Their physical characteristics have an extensive influence throughout the body. They are subject to many tangible diseases. They originate the most extensive tumors, and are the seat of hydropic disorders. These may originate in some obscure functional derangement that has heretofore eluded our research. There are well-authenticated cases on record of their displacement backward and downward into the recto-vaginal sac; and there is hardly a doubt that they may be involved in the gone-sensation that universally exists in these protracted cases. The sensation is so like that produced by pressure or disease of the testicles in the male, it affords additional reasons for the suspicion.

Dyspeptic symptoms and spinal irritation are very frequent among our students, and others who lead a sedentary life, and in almost every instance they are greatly aggravated if not produced by the habits we have been considering. They, as well as the other symptoms to which we have referred in these remarks, never occur before puberty, nor do they present themselves in the later stages of life. They exist only when the reproductive function is in full vigor, and if the powers of the system are not overcome as a consequence of the gross violation of nature's laws, they are apt to subside when the force and vigor of these organs are on the decline.

Prevention is the principal indication with the physician in these cases. The patient should be thoroughly instructed in the penalty which is decreed against the violators of nature's laws. He should be taught that every passion, and every appetite with which he is endowed, is given for a *specific* end; and when nature's designs are transcended, and a perfect equilibrium is destroyed, it produces a physical disease, in the same manner that a single mental faculty, when allowed to supersede others, will work a destruction of the mind and produce insanity.

In many instances, a consciousness that degraded habits are known, even to the physician, will work a reformation; hence an intimation of the cause will not unfrequently arrest the habit, and if not too long continued, the consequences resulting from it. Travelling—cold bathing—engagement in some active pursuit that will absorb the faculties of both body and mind—entire abstinence in thought, word and deed, from the sin that so easily besets them, are all strongly indicated, to remove the habit. When this is done, the recuperative power of the system, aided by invigorating treatment, will do much, at least, towards removing the effects it may leave behind it.

The practical questions deducible from the facts and reasonings contained in this paper, are left for the consideration of this society, with an earnest hope that they may be the means of exciting curiosity, stimulating inquiry, and in the end terminate in practical results.

LOCAL INSUSCEPTIBILITY TO VACCINE VIRUS.

To the Editor of the Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Your favor of the 7th ult. came to hand in due time. The fact you mention, of the insusceptibility of the system to the influence of vaccine virus at this time, is an interesting one, and ought to be recorded for future use, when we shall have learned its cause. Your supposition, that we are to look for the cause, in a particular atmospheric influence on the system, seems to me to be probably correct. And if so, we may find on investigation that it is the same that predisposes to epidemic cholera, and that vaccination may be made a test of cholera tendency in our cities, that will be of some value.

The virus you kindly sent me I used in four different and distant portions of this town, and with only one failure in six cases. Will this degree of success justify the conclusion, that we have not much tendency

to develop cholera among us? We have not yet had a case, but we have had many of cholera morbus, dysentery, and bilious diarrhœa, during the last two months.

In connection with the subject of vaccination, I will mention that I have hit upon a mode of preserving vaccine virus that promises well. I have tried many different ways to keep the virus, but with unsatisfactory success, until I made trial of the ethereal solution of gun cotton, as follows, viz., a little raw cotton (cotton wool) was tightly wound around a recent scab, and immersed in the solution an instant, and withdrawn and allowed to dry thoroughly (which required but a few minutes). The immersion was repeated some ten or twelve times, when a very firm and impermeable case around the scab was produced, without injury to the virus. The above experiment was made January 1, 1849. On the 5th inst., the case was opened, and a minute particle of the scab was inserted in the arm, and produced the true vaccine disease.

How long virus can be kept in this way, remains to be proved. I have no doubt it can be kept as long as the convenience of any physician will require. I should perhaps mention that it would be well to keep it in a tightly corked phial and from the light, as was done in this experiment.

Very respectfully,

Harvard, Sept. 17, 1849.

E. A. HOLMAN.

SKETCHES OF EMINENT LIVING PHYSICIANS.—NO. XII.

J. REDMAN COXE, M.D., LATE PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

"With us there was a *Doctour of Phisike*.

In all this world, ne was ther non him like

To speke of Phisike, and of Surgerie :

Wel knew he the Old Esculapius,

And Dioscorides and eke Rufus :

Old Hippocras—Hali and Gallien :

Seraphim—Rasis, and Avicen :

Averrois—Damascene, and Constantin :

Bernard—and Gatisden and Gilbertin :"

"O powers of man! How vain your glory nipped

E'en in its height of verdure, if an age

Less bright succeed not. Cimabue thought

To lord it over painting's field : and now

The cry is Giotto's, and his name eclipsed.

Thus hath one Guido from the other snatched

The letter'd prize, and he perhaps is born

Who shall drive either from their rest. The noise

Of worldly fame is but a blast of wind

That blows from diverse points and shifts its name,

Shifting the point it blows from."

CATO was standing in the gallery of the Academy of Natural Sciences, in Philadelphia, and admiring the hundreds of intelligent foreheads facing the venerable chairman, Dr. Knight, of New Haven. The long Hall, with gallery upon gallery, case upon case, and recess frame work, filled with the wonders of animate and inanimate nature, were around him. There stood the majestic king of birds, the ostrich, with

several large eggs by him ; here the skeleton of the mastodon, the king of animals, presiding in quiet and solemn dignity, over the large meeting ; and around were lions grinning over conquered serpents, horrid tigers and hyenas almost in the act of howling, and monkeys, from the great baboon to the most insignificant of the Simia. Great *lithographs* of the Saurians (schistose deposits, with the organic remains of these animals in them) lined the walls, surmounted by portraits of some of the most distinguished naturalists. Heaven itself threw a broad but mellow light on the scene, for the whole roof is one crystal floor, pouring light upon this immense collection. In the midst of the hum and subdued noise of the congregated medical world, it was announced to the Chair and meeting that a venerable disciple of Æsculapius was in the ante-chamber. On a motion being put, and passed, a Committee was appointed to wait upon him and invite him to take a seat in the American Medical Association. The Committee retired, and all was quiet. After a few moments a door opened at the lower end of the Hall, and the Committee re-appeared, escorting between them, one, who well represented the venerable appearance of the Father of Medicine. As if by magic, that whole assemblage rose, with uncovered heads, while the venerable patriarch passed through the throng, up to the President's platform, and meekly stood by the officers of the meeting. His snowy locks hanging gracefully down, his head slightly bowed—the words of Dante appeared appropriate.

"I saw an old man standing by my side,
Alone, so worthy of reverence in his look,
That ne'er from son to father was more owed."

A few trembling words, thanking his medical sons (who had congregated from one end to the other of this vast republic) for their kindness, while a pellucid tear trickled down his furrowed cheek, and he sat down.

Reader, that man was JOHN REDMAN COXE ! The majority, probably, of those present (a thing which can never happen again to any other man) had been his pupils, and many of them seemed scarcely less aged than himself ; a beautiful tribute to real learning, and one that warmed the heart of Cato more towards the noble profession of his choice than any thing which he had ever witnessed.

Dr. Coxe possesses one of the largest and most valuable private libraries in the United States, numbering, it is said, in all, about 15,000 vols. Always a great antiquarian book-worm, he has for a half century been collecting, both in this country and in Europe, old and valuable books on medicine, theology, and other subjects. Cato thinks that Dr. C. could not better dispose of this immense library—particularly the medical portion of it—than to bequeath it, under proper regulations, as the foundation of a great *medical library* to be established in Philadelphia ; where the medical profession, in making their pilgrimages to this the *medical Mecca* of America, might consult the best and most valued ancient and modern works in medicine and the collateral sciences. "Coxe's Medical Library"—as the "Harveyian" or "Hunterian" museums of England—would then be resorted to, as are those great repositories of books and specimens. It is to be hoped that our venerable friend will thus

bless, in parting with the world, the profession of his youth and mature manhood; and leave the world a monument which will for ages perpetuate his memory and elevate the medical profession in the new world. Harvey's foundation in London has no doubt had much to do with the perpetuation of his fame, and establishment of his claims, as discoverer of the circulation.

Dr. Coxe, it is supposed, has never attended to a very extensive practice in Philadelphia, but has preferred attending to his pen, and his duties as a public instructor. As the first introducer of the great Jennerian discovery, vaccination; as the inventor of an important remedy in croup, and other infantile diseases, Coxe's hive syrup; as the editor, for many years, of the *Dispensatory*; and as a public teacher of one of the most practical branches of medicine, he has swayed an immense influence over the medical profession in the United States. Never having enjoyed a very robust *physical* health, and always fully occupied with the *learning* of the profession, he has preferred to follow the more elevated and more quiet occupations of writer and teacher. His family influence was sufficient, in early life, to give him a place in the Board of Trustees in the University; his grandfather, Dr. Rodman, having long presided over the deliberations of that body. A student of the distinguished Dr. Benjamin Rush, he early found himself the successor of Dr. Waterhouse in the chair of chemistry in this school. This chair he filled for many years, and was succeeded by the well-known Dr. Robert Hare. It is said, that as a lecturer on chemistry he was more happy in explaining his experiments than in making them; and it was hinted that the paucity of apparatus, and his lamentations over that which was broken or destroyed, were occasioned by a disposition too penurious to afford the necessary outlay for the branch which he taught. This defect was amply compensated by the liberality of his distinguished successor, whose apparatus demanded that a vessel should be chartered for its transfer to Washington, where it is now deposited in the Smithsonian Institute. It was, however, in the chair of *materia medica* that Dr. Coxe long flourished and declined.

He suggested to the Trustees the propriety of establishing a course of lectures purely pharmaceutical, to which druggists and apothecaries should be admitted, and they acceded to the suggestion. Dr. Coxe thereafter lectured on *materia medica* and pharmacy, until a sufficient number of druggists had been educated to form an association, called the "Philadelphia College of Pharmacy." This institution is now in a flourishing condition, and has already accomplished great good, in elevating the character of the dispensing druggist and apothecary. Its *Journal* is well known both in Europe and America. Dr. Coxe may with justice be considered the founder of a more elevated pharmacy in the United States. It is true that medicine and pharmacy have changed much since that time; this, however, does not detract from his influence on the *then* condition of the profession.

As a teacher of *materia medica* and therapeutics, he was distinguished as a humorist, and combated, with the vigor of a giant, the theories of his friend and colleague Prof. Chapman, which were, out and out, solid-

ism. The old gentleman has now the satisfaction, in the evening of his days, of seeing the whole profession more ultra in humoralism than he had ever been, and the theories of his opponents swept away "like the morning cloud and the early dew." His style of lecturing was an energetic conversational one, reading largely from notes, and continually combating some error of the past, or of the present, particularly the latter. In this, he was generally successful, on account of his vast erudition and close acquaintance with ancient medical literature. Whether from this superior knowledge, or from a reverence for the *truly* learned of the ancients, or from the disposition to cavil at all generally admitted facts, we know not, but, Dr. Coxe preferred Galen to Hippocrates, considered Harvey an impostor, and averred that the whole *materia medica* might with advantage be condensed into nine articles.

When Cato came on to the stage of action, Dr. Coxe was not considered *the* popular professor of the school; but Cato always felt a great partiality for the learning of Prof. Coxe, amusing himself by taking notes in latin as the words fell from the old gentleman's lips; and although he did not obtain from Prof. C. a very accurate knowledge of the *materia medica* as taught in modern times, yet he considered himself fully compensated by the variety and amount of a kind of learning which could only be obtained through vast research over many volumes.

Early in this century, Dr. Coxe projected and edited a journal, called the "Medical Museum," which will always remain a monument of his industry and a point of reference for some of the best essays of the great medical luminaries of the day.

Personally, Dr. Coxe is about five feet six and a half inches high; a good sized head, covered with hair, now snowy white, growing rather low over the forehead, and brushed back; eyes black and piercing; a nose nearly of the Grecian contour; a good sized mouth, made somewhat irregular by the projection of several front teeth; with long arms, flat breast, very thin and delicate in appearance; his dress, a black hat rather broader brimmed than the fashion, frock coat, white cravat, black vest and pantaloons, a well polished shoe, and a silver-headed cane. His light and active step might deceive one into an idea of his youth, had not time so blanched his hair, wrinkled his phiz, placed the *annulus senilis* upon his eye, and corrugated the skin, and enlarged the veins of his hands. His voice, never very strong, has almost the shrill pitch of a boy, especially when excited while lecturing.

"A visage sterner, and milde, where both did growe,
Vice to contemne, in vertue to rejoyce;
Amid great Stormes, whom grace assured so
To live upright, and smile at Fortune's choyce.

* * * * *
A hart, where drede was neer so imprest,
To hide the thought, that might the trouthe auance,
In neyther fortune loſt, nor yet reſt,
To ſwel in welth, or yield vnto miſchance."

CATO.

SUPERIORITY OF PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE IN MEDICINE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MEDICAL men are divided into two chief classes—those who are eminently *practical* in their professional associations, ideas and pursuits, and those who are mainly devoted to mental or theoretical labors, and evolve only such doctrines as originate in the simple operations of the intellect and imagination. The various grades intervening between these two broad, general classes, it is unnecessary to enumerate or define; but there are comparatively few who may not be fairly embraced under one of them, from a visible preponderance of professional peculiarities or predilections. Now, it may seem quite superfluous to assert the necessity of a just admixture of those qualities, in professional pursuits, which in an isolated aspect are comparatively so inefficient, and derogatory to the dignity and interests of the profession. The ancient sentiment of "*verum in medio*," is not a whit less emphatic and imperative now than formerly. It can never be questioned, that to elaborate an admirable and impeachless model of professional excellence, the absurdities of extreme opinionism must be discarded, and a just combination of theory and experience adopted, which shall be so superior to dogmatic or summary assumptions, as by the native grace and power of its character, to debar ridicule, and annihilate opposition. We say uniformly, let prejudice and exaggeration no-where prevail. Let the harmonious light of manly ratiocination and cautious experience guide the practitioner of medicine. However, setting aside the wretched pretensions of empirics, and such as subsist by a shameful system of audacity and imposition, the actual blame of medical men, in my opinion, is the proneness to trust to the single light of unilluminated reason—the guidance of speculative logic, which, if possible, is a more egregious error than the opposite reliance on the instructions of experience. Now, there is a peculiar difficulty in countervailing the ill effects of excessive theorization, from the fact that theories, *as rapidly as engendered, are promulgated*. For there is an air of plausibility and ingenuity in them, which readily persuades the superficial inquirer that they ought to be perpetuated, and hence our libraries are teeming with the most refined absurdities. But the disclosures of experience and diligent observation are much less punctually recorded and promulgated, from various causes. The selfish are willing to appropriate the benefits of useful discoveries, to their own personal advantage, and reluctantly permit any revelation of important facts to transpire, for the public good. Besides, there are many professional men, who, actuated by the most ingenuous and commendable motives, are industriously prosecuting those inquiries, which yield them many useful results—but from neglect to appreciate the claim of mankind on every item of knowledge, make those results available only to a limited number.

It is a fact that men of earnestly practical habits and aspirations, are apt to omit the just intermixture of theory, which should regulate and modify all attainments. They have not been educated, perhaps, to cultivate a scientific philanthropy, which seeks to extend the information of

valuable truths, in those channels which shall ensure their perpetuity. This unfortunate tendency, however, is rapidly yielding to the advance of intelligence, and a just appreciation of the demands of the sick and suffering. Yet contrasting the extremes of multiplied theories and simple experience, it cannot fail to happen that a wise preference must be given to the latter. There is no danger of too much experience. There is no loss in an accumulation of practical truth. The empty vagaries of the imagination are pernicious in the proportion of their variety and number. The sober mind is distempered with the infection of shadowy conceptions. Let us, then, first determine to avoid these, and engage in the single acquisition of established truth. Medical science is pre-eminently practical. The crises and dilemmas, in which the practitioner is required to muster his resources, are not such as to foster idleness or speculation. The diseases and agonies of the body are real ills, and by the sufferer himself painfully recognized as such. Therefore, the efficacy of moral or intellectual processes alone, is not likely to be regarded of paramount consequence, when the fruits of experience only are prolific of relief, in their application to present issues. There is nothing more salutary in its influence on the mind of the patient, than the active impressions which a lofty, practical discernment, on the part of the physician, is certain to produce. It immeasurably enhances both the success and the reputation of the practitioner. It furnishes him an indescribable gratification, in cases of weighty responsibility and singular complication. It enables and prompts him to look upon the pretensions of the ignorant and avaricious, with contempt, and to contravene with indefeasible armor, the arrogance of fools. That such signal superiority in the career of medical practice, is to accrue from supineness or accident, need not be imagined. That it ought justly to be the reward of probity, assiduity and patience, may be quickly seen. It must be achieved by careful observation of apparently insignificant details, by diligent comparison of examples, by the indefatigable love of research, and by constant attention to the doctrines of experience, which older and discreeter minds have accumulated. The unadorned instructions of toil-hardened men—of such as have long and faithfully battled with prejudice and discouragement—these are worthy to be reserved in the mental repository of the young, and reproduced in the excitement of unforeseen exigency, and amid the confusion of conflicting counsel, and superstitious apprehension. The theorizer is easily upset. His sublime or ethereal conjectures are scattered in real danger. His resources are sublimated and evasive. But the practical thinker sees no emergency so desperate, as not to permit, at least, the exercise of some competent philosophy, or the employment of some fit expedient, which if inadequate to procure convalescence, may at least be regarded in the retrospect, as a dictate of cautious prudence, or enlightened deliberation.

In conclusion of this brief commentary, then, we assign to the pursuit of practical knowledge in medicine, a degree of importance altogether beyond the finest attractions, or the most exaggerated benefits, of the theoretical study.

C. COLGROVE.

Sardinia, N. Y., Sept. 6, 1849.

DEATH OF DR. JAMES A. HOUSTON.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

"Man, that is born of woman, hath but a short time to live. * * * He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower."

IT is with the deepest regret that we have the unwelcome task of announcing the death of JAMES ALEXANDER HOUSTON, M.D., which took place on the 17th inst., in the city of New York, from the effects of hemorrhage from the lungs. He was a native of County Antrim, Ireland. His father, the Rev. Dr. Houston, is a distinguished clergyman of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, to whom the tidings of his death will be a severe shock, and a terrible affliction. Dr. Houston was employed for several years as official reporter to the Senate of the United States. In the capacity of reporter, he stood at the head of his profession; the facility, correctness, and the elegance of his adornments to the reports, gained him the approbation, and secured to him the sterling friendship of the respective speakers—few of whom were ever reported by him, who did not gain credit by the impress of genius with which he adorned whatever passed from his pen. After his arrival in the United States, he published the *New York Lancet*, which he conducted with much ability, and which, but for certain untoward circumstances, promised to be one of the best and most popular medical periodicals that ever emanated from the American press. Dr. Houston, however, was more widely known, as being one of the principal contributors to the columns of the *New York Herald*. The elegance, ease, and grace of his editorial articles, whilst they riveted the attention, they were the connecting link of unknown friendships between him and the readers of that paper. As a member of society—a citizen—a parent—a friend,

"He was a man, that, take him all in all,
We ne'er shall look upon his like again."

He loved Ireland, his native land, for Ireland's sake. He admired and was a staunch supporter of his adopted country, for the sake of its institutions, of which the "school system" made a deep and vivid impression upon his heart. In the fulness of admiration he would exclaim, "Give my unfortunate country the system of American education, and her miseries will cease."

Dr. H. was of great original talent and of finished education. His knowledge and readings were extensive—of the nervo-sanguineous temperament, he possessed an expansive heart, enthusiastic in his feelings, generous in all his impulses—his sentiments were honorable, for he could not conceive a mean thought; forgiving in his nature, with all his power and opportunities he never retaliated an injury received. He was in the prime of life, being only 33 years old, and leaves a wife and four children deeply to lament and keenly to feel the calamity which has overtaken them in his sudden demise. Death seldom shoots a dart so unexpected and so deplored as that which adds his name to the catalogue of those distinguished names that within the last year have crowded the portals of the grave.

We shall at an early day give the history of his disease, the peculiarity of the treatment, and the post-mortem examination.

MARRYING A COUSIN.

[Extracted from a Manuscript Work by ENOS STEVENS, Examining Agent for the Massachusetts Commissioners for the Prevention and Restoration from Idiocy.]

WHEN a remarkably healthy couple of married cousins raise children, their children are usually all very healthy. But it very rarely occurs that two such persons are found in the same kindred, who mutually choose to marry each other, and who habitually manifest all their mental and physical powers in the normal proportion. On the contrary, among those who have some weak and some strong mental and physical powers, those of the same kindred would be most likely to have the same peculiarities both by inheritance and by analogous manners and habits of living. If the children of such a couple of cousins inherited the common weaknesses and the common superiorities of both parents, then they would be very eccentric in mind, and the gigantic strength of some of the bodily organs would soon overdo and destroy the others. That is, for example, a strong stomach and digestion might overwhelm weak lungs with arterializing too much blood, and cause one to run down with consumption, or some of the other affections of excessive nourishment. Again, violent exertions of very strong muscular powers may cause the blood to burst their blood-vessels and a delicate skin, and thus cause one either to bleed to death immediately or else throw out the most painful and loathsome humors or eruptions. But among those not related, there will probably be more difference in the peculiar abilities of the parents, which, when mutually modified in their children, will produce equanimity of mind and health of body.

In the seventeen families of married cousins, mentioned in the Massachusetts Report on Idiocy, both parents were very scrofulous and far from the normal condition of health, and nearly all their children inherited all the common weaknesses of both parents in a ten-fold worse degree. Moreover, these puny and indiscreet parents grossly mismanaged all their children during their whole infancy and childhood, and especially during their own intemperance. The average number of children born in these seventeen families is five to each family. The average number of idiots in these same families is three in each family; and the other two children to each family were either stillborn, or else deformed, or always very puny and miserably sick and sore.

 THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON. SEPTEMBER 26, 1849.

Medical Lectures in Boston.—Within a few weeks, the annual course of medical instruction will commence in this city, under circumstances unusually favorable for the advancement of students. Better accommodations cannot be found on the continent. The hospital, the college edifices, and the institutions to which those have access who are in attendance on the lectures, have no superiors in this country; and the ambition of the faculty

will be constantly directed towards the advancement of the class. Gentlemen who have been professionally educated at this institution, are qualified for any position in after life, to which the practice of their profession may call them. Knowing, as we do from long familiarity, the advantages accruing from a matriculation at the Massachusetts Medical College, we are naturally led to hope that its broad wings may be spread over the heads of a large company of medical students the approaching season.

If to the other advantages of the school could be added the charm of a course on natural philosophy, by that best of all modern lecturers in that department, Prof. Lovering, of Cambridge, it would immensely increase the interest of the course, as it would wake up the sleepy, give activity to thought, open new avenues of knowledge to many, and afford a generous respite from the perpetual consideration of diseases and dead men's bones. If Prof. Lovering could be spared from the University long enough to deliver such a course, the popularity of the measure would, we think, soon be made manifest.

The Science of Optics.—There are two self-taught men in Massachusetts, who are learned without pretence, and who, were they inhabitants of Europe instead of this Commonwealth, would long since have been honored with the fostering attentions of philosophers for their distinguished attainments, as Dolland and Fraunhofer were, in the same difficult but exceedingly important department of science, viz., optics. One is Alvan Clarke, of Boston, a miniature painter, who has constructed several telescopes, under circumstances very unfavorable indeed, partly during those fractions of time when he could not pursue his regular vocation, but chiefly late at night. These instruments are scarcely equalled, and not surpassed, by those of the most celebrated foreign manufacturers. Mr. Clarke makes every part with his own hands—grinds and polishes the lenses, and has astonished those who are competent to appreciate the magnitude of his mechanical achievements, in the construction of a really splendid refractor. This, however, is only a small part of the marvel. Mr. Clarke is profoundly familiar with the laws of light, and with his own beautiful instruments has made himself as familiar with the firmament and all the telescopic objects of the heavens, as with the canvass on which he daily labors for bread.—The other, equally deserving for his moral qualities, mechanical ingenuity and profound knowledge in the same field of science, is J. B. Allen, of Springfield, a modest, retiring, deserving individual, who, as in the other case, without a patron, without an instructor, and almost without the approving recognition of those who are reputed to be wise above the multitude, has few equals in the domain of optics. He, too, has fabricated excellent reflecting telescopes—and it would be an honor to the great town of Springfield to purchase one of them for the use of the public schools, as the period may come when it will be a boast that Mr. Allen resided there. At the late session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Cambridge, Mr. Allen exhibited a microscope which he had made. If we are not misinformed, he had never seen one himself before. It was admired for its wonderfully defining powers, and is enough to give him a permanent reputation. Amos Lawrence, Esq., of Boston, celebrated for acts of generosity and encouragement, purchased it at once, and Mr. Allen was elected a member.

These gentlemen are not merely mechanics—they are philosophers, in the highest sense; they have taught themselves what scarcely one in a thou-

sand understands with all the superior advantages of tutors, text-books, lectures, and systematic experimental guidance. If our universities would lend a helping hand to geniuses like these, instead of plastering over empty heads with honorary degrees, to gratify some relative of a trustee's friend, who has neither claims nor brains, how much it would redound to their influence. Let these men have an opportunity of exhibiting the power that is in them, and they would astonish the world with the grandeur of their achievements. Since, however, they are neither noticed by college professors, nor introduced into observatories, their appropriate place, the object of these observations is to elicit an interest in their behalf with the medical profession. Physiology can only progress under the microscope, and there is room enough to employ all the forces that can be enlisted in the service. Those who are fond of these researches, and are in want of suitable instruments, are advised to call upon Messrs. Clarke and Allen for them, and we have no doubt they will be furnished with such as will enable them, with proper application, to carry physiological researches beyond all modern boundaries.

Arrested Development in Utero.—Dr. Melicher's extraordinary case of apparent intra-uterine amputation, on the first page of this Journal last week, has a parallel in this city. In all the essentials, it is precisely like it, and the causes that operated against the development in the first, must have been the same in the latter.

A fine, fat, red-haired, male child, nine months old, was brought to us for vaccination, which presented the following appearance. About three inches and a half below the left elbow, the fore-arm had a square stump, as though there had been a clear cut, at a right angle—the integuments being drawn over the edge of the bones. A rudimental wrist was glued, as it were, to near the centre of the stump. The palm of a hand, not larger than a ninepence, with miniature fingers, three of which had nails, but without bones, completed the limb. The mother had experienced neither fright nor unaccountable sensations, before the birth of her child—nor was there any marvellous cause to which to impute the condition of the arm, as is generally found by nurses and believers in maternal influences on the fœtus. Had it not been for the embryotic digits, almost any surgeon would have said, at first sight, there had been an amputation—that the bones had been divided with a saw—so strongly defined were the margins of the radius and ulna. A few inches of those bones were missing, besides the carpus and phalanges. The cause of the phenomenon, and the manner in which nature conducted the process, must necessarily remain a problem. That such occurrences are rare, is evident from the fact that only a few have been recorded; but those have been so nearly alike, in all respects, as to lead to the conclusion that the circumstances conducing to such incompleteness of development were the same in each.

Extortion of Fees.—There is a whispering, about town, of a somewhat novel mode resorted to by a physician for harvesting a fee. No one approves the process, though he has no right to place a value upon the services of another. The idea is never to be lost sight of, that a medical practitioner should be a gentleman—and, further, that a merciful regard to the poor ought to be a prominent trait in his character, since a blessing follows his ministrations to them, which in the end is worth more than money.

Thompson's Conspectus.—A more convenient book of reference than this, in regard to the composition of various medicinal preparations, with the doses, is not to be found. Its very conciseness is one of the strongest recommendations, as the object is to put the examiner in immediate possession of facts in regard to the value and administration of remedies. Messrs. S. H. & W. Wood, New York, publishers extensively engaged in the production and circulation of medical works, have sent forth the fifth American edition, carefully revised by that critical editor, Dr. Charles A. Lee, of the Geneva Medical College. Additions have been made, amounting to twenty pages. Without enlarging upon the positive merits of a hand-book, which must be equally prized by the wise and the unwise, we beg to recommend it to the fraternity generally.

Dr. Copland's Medical Dictionary.—Any information respecting this work—so valuable in itself, but the completion of which has been so long delayed—will be acceptable to the profession in this country. Parts 13 and 14 are just published in London, and the *Journal of Medicine* of that city thus speaks of them and of the work in general.

"In the Parts we have now before us, we find articles extending, in alphabetical order, from Poisons to Scirrhus Tumors; and when we say that they are of such a character as to justify the description of the work contained in the title-page, we have awarded praise of no ordinary kind. Dr. Copland is indeed one of the most remarkable of living authors; he not only brings to bear upon his subjects a vast—we had almost said an excessive—amount of erudition, but he illuminates and brings home all this learning to the mind of the reader, by the soundness with which he applies his personal experience. For one author, single-handed, to have undertaken this comprehensive Dictionary of Practical Medicine, is not remarkable; for perhaps there are many who think they could do it as well as, or even better than, Dr. Copland; but no one who understands the magnitude of the labor, can collate this work with others of a similar kind, without being astonished at its general excellence, and its pervading superiority."

Cholera and Dysentery in Buffalo, N. Y.—The cholera has prevailed extensively in Buffalo, but has now, as in most other places in this country, nearly or entirely ceased. The whole number of cases, as given in the *Buffalo Medical Journal*, since the commencement of the epidemic, up to the 1st of September, was 2505; deaths, 858. Of the dysentery, which has prevailed there, in common with so many other places, the editor of that Journal thus speaks:—

"Dysentery has prevailed to some extent in this city for the past few weeks, presenting the characters belonging to the epidemic form of the disease. In some cases it has evinced considerable malignancy. So far as our observation and knowledge of it has extended, tormina and tenesmus are not prominent symptoms. The mucous tunic of the entire large intestine appears to be involved, and, also, to some extent, the small intestine. This opinion is predicated upon the phenomena during life wholly, opportunities for autopsical examination not having as yet been presented.

"In severe cases the pulse becomes frequent, accompanied by prostra-

tion, and, in some instances, typho-mania. The discharges are apt to be sanguinolent, and a strong hæmorrhagic tendency distinguishes some cases.

"We have been informed that in other places a similar form of dysenteric disease has attended the decline of epidemic cholera, the latter affection appearing to become merged in the former."

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Wyatt has been arrested at Spencer, Ohio, for being engaged in counterfeiting hard money.—Cholera is quite as destructive in Mexico as in the United States.—Dysentery is still very fatal in many parts of New England. If the patient survives the nineteenth day of the disease, recovery may be expected.—By the influence of a pretended clairvoyant mesmerizing female over vulgar minds, an elaborate and patient examination of the manure of a large stable was recently made in Boston, to find the body of a missing express man, whom she declared had been murdered, and was there concealed. On Monday, of last week, the defunct re-appeared in the city, in excellent condition! Yet mesmerizing is said to be a profitable business in the Athens of America.—Dr. Gesner has found a skeleton of a huge mostodon, at Cape Breton, fourteen feet high, in the finest state of preservation, which is valued at £1000.—Dr. Coventry, of Utica, has the temporary charge of the State Asylum for the Insane, in that city, till a successor to the late lamented Dr. Brigham is appointed.

ERRATUM.—In last week's report of deaths, the figures in the total number were transposed so as to read 106, instead of the right number 160. Readers are requested to alter it with a pen.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—A Letter on the Cholera, from the late Dr. Sewall, of Washington, to Dr. Page, of Louisiana; Dr. Slack's paper on Sensitive Attraction; and Dr. Castle's on the Dental Profession, have been received.

Answer to Alpha.—No institution in this country confers a diploma in Surgery. The degree of Doctor of Medicine is the only one conferred on medical graduates, as a majority of the medical men in the United States are compelled, by the force of circumstances and the usages of society, to practise all the different branches. A medical degree is not conferred by any college, unless the candidate has attended at least one course of lectures in the medical department of that institution, and has sustained a satisfactory examination. An honorary degree is an acknowledgment of the eminent qualifications of the person on whom it is conferred, and who is supposed to be wholly unconscious of his great merits, till thus publicly announced. If we fully understand what Alpha wishes, we must say, therefore, that it cannot be obtained.

To Subscribers.—The notice of subscribers is respectfully called to the bills which they may find enclosed in their copies of the Journal. A large amount is due the publisher, much of which is for years previous to the present. Those who have no other direct way of making remittances, are requested to do so by mail. An early attention, by those who are in arrears, is urgently solicited.

DIED.—At Taunton, Mass., Dr. Alfred Williams, 77.—At South Britain, N. Y., Dr. Joseph Winterbottom, Physician of the Nursery Hospital, Randall's Island, 30.—At Jacksonville, Geo., Dr. T. F. Moore—shot in an affray by Dr. Humphrey.—At Vernon, Conn., Dr. Scottoway Hinckley, 78.—In New York, Dr. J. A. Houston, Reporter of the U. S. Senate, formerly editor of the New York Lancet.—At Venice, Dr. W. A. Sparks, U. S. Consul.—At Little Compton, R. I., Horatio Palmer, M.D., 34.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday, September 22d, 149.—Males, 73—females, 76. Of consumption, 14—accidental, 1—aphtha, 1—disease of the bowels, 14—fever and ague, 1—disease of the brain, 1—amenorrhœa, 1—canker, 1—cholera, 22—cholera infantum, 7—cyanosis, 1—cholera morbus, 2—dysentery, 26—diarrhœa, 11—dropsy of the brain, 3—typhus fever, 2—scarlet fever, 3—lung fever, 1—brain fever, 1—typhoid fever, 1—hooping cough, 2—hemorrhage, 2—infantile diseases, 9—inflammation of the lungs, 1—marasmus, 1—cancer, 1—old age, 4—palsy, 1—delirium tremens, 2—disease of the spine, 1—teething, 7—pustule, 1—unknown, 2.

Under 5 years, 60—between 5 and 20 years, 16—between 20 and 40 years, 40—between 40 and 60 years, 22—over 60 years, 11.

The late Professor Harrison, of Cincinnati.—We find in the last number of the *Western Lancet*, of which publication Dr. Harrison was one of the editors, the following brief notice of his sudden death. Dr. H., as is seen in our advertising sheet, was Prof. of *Materia Medica and Therapeutics* in the Ohio Medical College. Arrangements are immediately to be adopted by the Trustees for supplying his place.

"We are called upon to make a sad and solemn announcement. Our esteemed colleague, Professor HARRISON, is no more. His death was fearfully sudden and unexpected. After having passed laboriously through the protracted and mortal epidemic with which we have been visited, without experiencing an attack, he was, on the 1st inst. (September), about 12 o'clock (noon), seized with diarrhœa. From the apparent extinction of the epidemic, he regarded his disease as common and transient—an effect of the sudden change of weather, occurring the night before—and did but little to arrest it. In about four hours, however, the character of the alvine dejections undeceived him, and he adopted a more energetic treatment. In another hour (5 o'clock) some of his medical friends were called in, when they found him with rice-water discharges, profuse vomiting, cramps, a faltering pulse and husky voice. At 7 o'clock he was pulseless, and before 12 in a state of deep collapse, which terminated in death at 6 the next morning. Thus has fallen, in the meridian of life, a physician of learning and irrepressible zeal in the cultivation of his profession, a copious writer, a fluent and impressive teacher, a gentleman and a christian."

Medical Department, U. S. Army.—The following gentlemen having passed a satisfactory examination at a recent meeting of the Board of Examiners in New York, have been appointed Assistant Surgeons in the Medical Department of the U. S. Army.

Wm. H. Ballard, of Louisiana; George K. Wood, of New York. Report in person at Jefferson Barracks.—Joseph P. Brown, of Michigan. Report in person at Fort Mackinac.—Alexander B. Hasson, of Maryland. Report in person at Fort Leavenworth.—Jonathan Letherman, of Pennsylvania. Report in person at Fort Monroe.—William A. Hammond, of Pennsylvania. Report in person at Carlisle Barracks, for duty with troops under orders to Santa Fe.—Francis Sorrell, of Georgia. Report in person at Fort Johnson, N. C.—Edward W. Johns, of Maryland. Report in person at Fort Columbus.—William W. Anderson, of South Carolina. Report in person at Fort McHenry.

On the 15th of October a Medical Board will assemble in Philadelphia, to examine candidates for the post of Assistant Surgeon in the army, of which there are several vacancies at present, as well as to provide for filling such vacancies as may occur during the year. The Board will continue in session two weeks. Applications for the post, or for permission to appear before the Board, must be made to the Secretary of War, accompanied by testimonials as to moral character. Candidates must be between twenty-one and twenty-eight years of age.—*Medical Examiner.*

Rail Roads and Ague.—Dr. Pieragnuoli, who practises at San Miniato, a place situated on the line of railway between Turin and Genoa, has noticed, that since the establishment of the line, intermittent fevers, which before were hardly known in the locality, have become very frequent and intractable. He attributes this fact to the stagnation of waters consequent on some cuttings made for the levelling of the railroad.—*London Lancet.*